GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2646
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2007
CHEMICAL PESTICIDES
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government agencies, research institutes and scientific and academic institutions associated with the projects to develop technologies for biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for promotion and production of environment friendly biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Various Government agencies, research institutes and other organizations are actively engaged in the development and production of biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides and list of the same is enclosed at Annexure 1.

(b) Government of India through its various departments has made concerted efforts towards the promotion and production of environment friendly biodegradable alternatives to chemical pesticides.National Biocontrol R&D network programme was initiated in 1989 to study the control of pest diseases through biodegradable pesticides.More than 200 R&D projects have been implemented for the production,better formulation and commercially viable degradable efficient bioagents. A number of technologies have been developed and transferred to the industries for commercialization. Intensive promotion programme was also launched for adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM)- Integrated Nutrient Management techniques, training programmes and various extension activities for farmers and extension functionaries have been organized throughout the country in order to create awareness among the farmers. Several centres have been identified for imparting training and various extension activities are being regularly conducted to popularize the technology among the farming community as well as the extension functionaries. With these efforts, substantial success has been achieved in terms of (1) development of standardized, cost effective and commercially viable mass production technologies of various candidate bioagents; (2) demonstrating the field efficacy of biocontrol agents/biopesticides under different ecosystem in various economically important crops;(3) realizing the economic benefits in IPM trials by working out the cost benefit ratio in terms of a) monetary gain; b) yield increase; c) reduction in pesticide consumption.(4) Creating a general awareness about the biocontrol base IPM technology among the farming community and the end users. Successful demonstration trials have culminated as a recommendation by the State Dept. of Agriculture in various states.